

the organized farmer

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GOLD EYE LAKE JR. FUA CAMP

By Paul Babey

On July 22, a number of Alberta M.L.A.'s visited our Junior Camp. They were welcomed by President Paul Babey who said: "This is one of the 'finest hours' in the history of our camp. Certainly we are tremendously impressed by the fact that so many of the M.L.A.'s have taken time away from their busy schedules and have driven great distances to see what the Junior F.U.A. has here and particularly what we are attempting to do."

"We are pleased, also, to welcome our friends from the Forestry Service. Had it not been for their able assistance we probably would never have found this location. Our future here is going to be largely dependent upon the co-operation we know will be forthcoming from your group. Permit me to thank you for your kind assistance in the past."

"This afternoon we will take you on a tour of the Gold Eye Lake Camp and will try to explain the developments that have taken place. We have an investment of approximately \$80,000.00 all donated by the farmers of Alberta. The Co-ops and the Government of Alberta."

"The physical development of the camp is not completed. I suspect that when it is, total investment will be in the neighborhood of \$150,000.00."

"Of interest to you might be the further construction planned. At our recent board meeting we approved construction of a caretakers residence. This will be winterized quarters for our caretaker, Mr. Morley Bradley. Our decisions were not based on whether we could financially afford this. They were decided mostly by the fact that we could ill afford to lose Mr. Bradley — and the contribution he is making in centering his efforts here. Cost approximately \$5,000.00."

"If you decide to come back another year, we hope you will see a winterized staff quarters containing 6 bedrooms, and a staff room for our instructors. Approximate cost \$15 — 20,000.00. I tip my hat to the staff members also because we sincerely appreciate their contribution."

"I am somewhat proud of our growth and our undertakings, especially in our attempt to reach rural youth. It is amazing that a minority group such as we have in agriculture today is making an all out attempt to contact our rising generations — the younger people."

"It is true that a very small percentage of the group we contact will find a place in agriculture for themselves. At the same time agriculture's survival in the future is going to depend somewhat upon the support and sympathy that we get from people in other walks of life. Secondly these young people regardless of the profession they choose will indirectly contribute to the welfare of agriculture because we met them early."

"Our objectives of advancing the interests of farmers and co-operative organizations, developing domestic citizenship, are now becoming a reality. It is true that we are only beginning to scratch the surface, but we are progressing as quickly as our limited resources will permit."

"Some of you are wondering about justifying an investment of \$100,000.00 which is just used 2 months of the year. We are very young, 2 years of operation. Our participation in Teen Camps is mushrooming to the point that in our second year we had to turn applications down. In the foreseeable future, it seems likely that we will be thinking in terms of a second Banff School of Fine Arts — with a permanent caretaker and camp utilization for a period of six months or more. There is no doubt in my mind that we will

need to set up our program in the future."

"Finally to administer a program of this nature naturally takes finances. This undertaking would have been impossible had it been left to one organization — F.U.A. or any Co-op. We are fortunate that in the Province we have very close harmony amongst all farm and co-op organizations. This has made our education department, known as F.U. & C.D.A., possible. In reality it is an organization of organizations, set up and financed to promote an educational and information program out in the country. This same co-ordinated approach is being used in our program of County Teams. Seventeen Teams are in operation at present receiving very fine co-operation from all groups including D.A.s and D.H.E.s."

"I bring these to your attention simply to illustrate the magnitude of the program. If we are to succeed in the future we will need assistance from wherever we can

muster it. If you like what you see here we would appreciate you telling others — if you don't tell us. We welcome constructive criticism."

"In closing — Gold Eye is honored to play host to the Legislators of this Province. We hope you enjoyed your stay and we'll look forward to seeing you back soon."

THE MAIN PAVILION



How do young people become good citizens? It doesn't just happen. Like everything else they must work at it. At Goldeye Lake Camp several hundred young people spent a week at one of the six camps, studying this very important and complex problem of being a good citizens, and helping to build good communities.

THE CONSUMER AND THE CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A talk given recently by Hon. Harry Hays, Federal Minister of Agriculture

"Because I am Minister of Agriculture, you may feel that my work in the Federal Government has very little to do with the daily lives of you who live in the city."

"Actually a great deal of the work of my Department is geared to serve the interests of the consumers of food rather than just the farmer."

"Sometimes I think I should be called the Minister of Food rather than the Minister of Agriculture. This is done in some countries and in a way it does present a truer picture."

"For instance, when you go out to buy a roast of meat you are reasonably sure that it's going to be safe to eat and of the quality you expect. This confidence is the result of our veterinarians checking every meat carcass and of our graders rating the meat as to quality. Practically all packing plants of any size in Canada are under federal inspection."

"The same thing applies to the eggs you buy — or the fruit, vegetables, and so on. Almost any food you buy bears a Canada Department of Agriculture grade."

"Nowhere in the world do people have the opportunity to eat as well as they do in Canada. In terms of their take-home-pay, Canadians have to spend the smallest percentage of their income on food."

"This is the result of maintaining a healthy agriculture. And to maintain a healthy agriculture we must offer our farmers some measure of security. We do this through a variety of means — crop insurance, farm credit, price stabilization and so on. But actually our farmers get a great deal less help from government than do farmers in the United States or Britain and less indeed than practically any other advanced country of the world."

sive farmers over some of the rough spots like drought and so on, they simply won't stay in business. If we don't have farmers, then we'll have to import food and our costs for food will skyrocket."

"Granted we might have butter for 40 cents a pound if we re-

moved all the supports right away, but it wouldn't be very long before butter was 90 cents or a dollar a pound because farmers couldn't take a chance on producing a product on which they might lose their shirts."

"Support prices, I believe, are even more beneficial to the consumer than to the farmer. They keep prices from dropping to disaster levels for the farmer but they also ensure a regular supply of food for the consumer at reasonable prices."

"As most of you know, the price the farmer gets for his produce doesn't tell the whole story of what the housewife has to pay at the store. For every dollar spent on bread by the consumer, the farmer gets only 12 cents for the wheat that made the bread. Putting it another way, for every dollar the farmer is paid for wheat that is made into bread, about \$8 is pumped into the national economy."

"Our farm exports help the whole economy too. Our balance of payments earnings from our wheat and wheat flour exports in the past year have amounted to 1 1/4 billion dollars."

"Possibly you would permit me to detail a few of the aspects of my Department that touch directly on all Canadians, whether they live in town or on the farms."

"Our Health of Animals Branch looks after meat inspection. Our veterinarians are at most plants across Canada. They also look after contagious livestock diseases — some of which affect humans."

"Our two biggest problems here have been T.B. and Brucellosis eradication. As far as T.B. is concerned, we can now say that there is more chance of a cow catching T.B. from a man than from the man catching T. B. from cattle."

"Brucellosis, which turns up as undulant fever in humans, is also on the way out. Through our

(Continued on Page 4)

Why Should I BUY . . . an F.U.A. LIFE MEMBERSHIP!

That means paying my \$6.00 membership for 17 years ahead.

Well, old timer, maybe you won't be farming for another full 17 years. Maybe you personally will not get your full dollars and cents value out of it.

But what about the next generation on the land? You will be leaving them a strong organization, something they are going to need maybe more than you ever did! Isn't that a good legacy to leave to them?

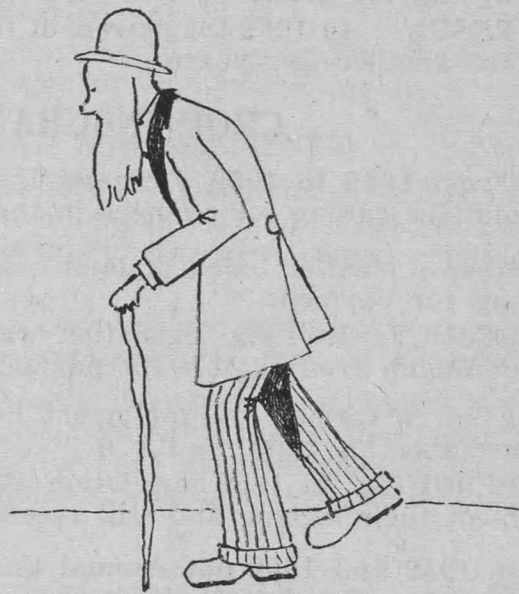
And what about the work the F.U.A. is doing for you right now? Have you ever figured what it might be saving you? (If you use the F.U.A. insurance pools, you are already saving enough to more than pay for your yearly membership!)

Is life membership really such an expensive way to belong to the F.U.A.? It could be a mighty good feeling to know, after you retire, that your organization, the F.U.A., will keep right on rolling along!

The payoff will take only 16 years if you are presently a member, and take out your life membership before October 30. You pay only \$94.00!!

REMEMBER CANVASSERS:

To qualify for a chance to win a ticket on THE TOUR — you must sell at least five life memberships. (Due in central office October 30.)



GRAIN

A. Our Annual Convention requested:

1. For nine years, from 1951 to 1960, that the Canadian Wheat Board take over the marketing of rye, flax, and durum wheat.

RESULT: Durum wheat placed under the Wheat Board.

2. From 1952 to 1958 that box cars be distributed to elevator of farmer's choice.

RESULT: In 1959 railways were instructed to distribute box cars to elevator of farmer's choice.

3. The Farm Unions have repeatedly asked the Grain Commissioners for a reduction in shrinkage allowance on coarse grains.

RESULT: Shrinkage allowance on wheat was reduced from $\frac{3}{8}$ of one per cent to $\frac{1}{4}$ of one per cent. Allowances on barley and rye were also reduced.

B. In 1955 our Annual Convention requested:

1. (a) a domestic price of \$2.50 per bushel to be set for wheat.

- (b) a floor price not below the cost of production for all grain sold on the export market, and parity prices for all products sold on the domestic market.

RESULT: In 1958 the federal government authorized payment of \$1.00 per seeded acre in lieu of parity prices as requested.

- (c) that the government assume the cost of all grain stored by the Wheat Board.

RESULT: In 1956 the federal government agreed to assume storage charges on wheat stored in excess of the normal carry-over. From 1956 till the austerity program of the government went into effect in 1962 this saved the Western farmers millions of dollars.

C. The F.U.A. has repeatedly requested for many years that a World Food Bank be established.

RESULT: The Canadian Government in 1962 pledged \$5,000,000 toward a world food bank (one third of this in cash and two thirds in food). The program will be jointly administered by the United Nations and its Food and Agricultural Organization over a three-year experimental period.

D. In 1952, 1953 and 1957 our Annual Convention requested:

Cash advances on farm stored grain with interest to be paid by the government.

RESULT: In 1957 this request was fully met.

E. In 1957 our Annual Convention requested:

That surplus grain be used as development capital in underdeveloped countries.

RESULT: In 1959 the federal government contributed 50 million dollars in Canadian grain to the Colombo Plan.

F. In 1956 the Interprovincial Farm Union Council requested:

That land seeded to grass be included in the specified acreage.

RESULT: This was done in 1958.

G. The Crow's Nest Pass Agreement.

This has always been strongly supported by the F.U.A., and we still have the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement, which saves the Western farmers about 30 cents freight a bushel on wheat, 20 cents a bushel on barley and 15 cents a bushel on oats.

H. Since rapeseed became an important product of Western farms the F.U.A. has requested that it be included in the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement.

RESULT: This was done in 1961.

I. The F.U.A. in 1961 strongly endorsed the maintenance of the Canadian Wheat Board as our sole marketing agency for grain.

RESULT: In 1962 the powers of the Board were extended for another five years.

CROP INSURANCE

From 1949 to 1959 Farmers' Union Conventions passed resolutions calling for changes in the P.F.A. Act to:

1. Have a smaller block of land made eligible when applying for payment.

RESULT: In 1958 legislation was passed to reduce the minimum area eligible for payment.

2. Allow a farmer to supplement his income without jeopardizing his right to P.F.A.

RESULTS: In 1958 legislation allows farmers to supplement their income and still receive P.F.A.

3. In 1952 and 1958 our Annual Convention requested crop insurance legislation.

RESULTS: In 1957 a crop insurance scheme was studied by Western Provinces in co-operation with the federal government.

In 1959 the Crop Insurance Act was passed, making it possible for any province to introduce crop insurance on a partial or total basis for any or all crops.

In 1964 the Alberta Crop Insurance Corporation was set up, charged with developing a system of crop insurance in the province.

Your F.U.A. Has Done To Help The Farmer

MARKETING AND LIVESTOCK

From 1952 to 1956 the F.U.A. and F.W.U.A. Annual Conventions asked for a Producer Marketing Board for farm produce other than grain.

RESULT: In 1955 "The Marketing of Agricultural Products Act" came into effect, covering poultry, poultry products, hogs, honey, vegetables, cheese, commercial grass and legumes seed.

Requests were made that all livestock herds be TB-tested as a safeguard for human health.

RESULT: All livestock herds in Canada are TB tested. The program was completed in 1961.

The F.U.A. for many years advocated the compulsory vaccination of all heifer calves in order to control Bangs disease.

RESULT: In 1963, the last L.I.D. supported this program, and Alberta is in the process of becoming a Bangs-Free area. The federal and provincial governments have co-operated to bring this about.

PRICE SUPPORTS

In 1957 the Alberta Poultry Marketers proposed the placing of support prices and import controls on turkeys and fowl. This was supported by the F.U.A. and presented in a brief through the A.F.A. and C.F.A.

RESULT: In 1957 Parliament passed a bill certifying import controls and support prices on turkeys and fowl.

Through numerous presentations, the F.U.A. has asked the federal government to assume its responsibilities in planning the economic development of Canada to check the rising costs of living, restore the purchasing power of the dollar and relieve the cost-price squeeze on agriculture.

RESULT: In 1958 the Agricultural Stabilization Act came into effect proposing the establishment of a system of guaranteed prices for agricultural commodities.

The 1952 Annual Convention requested an increase in the floor price for livestock and products.

RESULTS:

In 1958 the floor price for hogs was increased.

In 1961 deficiency payments on eggs were raised.

In 1962 consumers received a butter subsidy of 12 cents a pound.

FARM TRUCKS AND MACHINERY

In 1949 the Annual Convention requested lower license fees for farm vehicles.

RESULT: In 1958 farm jeeps were classified as farm trucks.

In 1955 it was requested that farm trucks and tractors be allowed to use purple gas for hauling farm produce.

RESULT: In 1956 the use of purple gas was allowed in all farm trucks.

From 1949 on the F.U.A. has repeatedly asked that an investigation be conducted on farm machinery prices.

RESULT: In 1960 a Royal Commission was set up to investigate all aspects of farm machinery costs.

After repeated requests to our provincial government in the interests of safety, legislation has been passed as follows:

No person under the age of 16 years shall drive a tractor or self-propelled implement of husbandry on a main or secondary highway.

No person under the age of 14 years shall drive a tractor or a self-propelled implement of husbandry on a highway.

FARM CREDIT

From 1952 to 1956 resolutions were passed at the F.U.A., F.W.U.A., and Jr. F.U.A. conventions asking that governments be requested to institute a long term loan plan, at low interest rates, to assist young farmers.

RESULTS: In 1957 The Alberta Farm Purchase Credit Act was established. Loans up to \$30,000 at 5% interest are available to young farmers for purchasing land. Applications are made to Municipal Councils.

In 1959 the new Farm Credit Act was passed making it possible to \$27,500 at 5% interest to repay — 30 years.

In 1964 the limit was raised to \$55,000 for small loans and up to \$55,000 for small loans.

In 1958 the F.U.A. asked for breaking of land to establish farms.

RESULT: Loans for clearing land are available through the new Farm Credit Act (apply at your bank).

PROPERTY

The F.W.U.A. have always advocated the disposition of property after death made presentations to the provincial government for adequate protection for the widows.

In 1953 the Convention asked for revision of the Intestate Succession Act for protection for widows.

RESULT: In 1964 the act was passed. The residue of the estate, after the debts are paid, will be divided between the surviving spouse and the children. Where there are more children the residue is divided equally.

In 1953 and following years the F.U.A. requested the federal government to amend the Duties Act which would allow for a significant change in one.

Exempts all estates up to \$60,000.

Allows \$60,000 exemption for the residue.

INCOME TAX

Through the years the F.U.A. have made requests for revision of the Income Tax Act which would benefit farm families.

RESULTS:

1. There has been an increase in the number of taxpayers.
2. The right to average income has been established.
3. University students may be considered as a dependent.
4. Depreciation is allowed on farm buildings, wells, etc.
5. Basic herd principle was established.

JUNIOR

The following are a few of the Junior programs which have been initiated.

1. Farm Young People's Varsity
2. Leadership Technique
3. GOLD EYE LAKE CAMPAIGN training centre for leadership and co-operation
4. Exchange visits with Junior Farmers in other provinces and countries.
5. Debates on a province-wide basis.

EDUCATION

In 1952 the F.W.U.A. convinced the provincial government to provide loans to set up a school book bank.

RESULT: In 1953 the Textbook Act came into effect. In 1957 school boards were required to provide books.

For a number of years the F.U.A. has requested the provincial government to provide loans to set up a school book bank.

Canada has been short of veterinarians. The F.U.A. has repeatedly asked for the establishment of a Veterinary College in the West.

RESULT: Such a college is now being established in Lethbridge.

To Do More For The The F.U.A. Needs

More Than A Little Bit Farmers Of Alberta!

edit Corporation Act (federal) for farmers to get a loan up to \$40,000 for unsupervised loans. For loans for clearing and an economical farm unit. and breaking land became Farm Improvement Loan Act

WIDOW LAWS

studied the Acts pertaining to death, and over the years have provincial government requesting widow and children. adopted the policy asking for a Succession Act to allow for more

was amended so that only the widow has received \$20,000, widow and children. Where the residue goes to the widow. the widow receives one third

years the F.W.U.A. Convention to revise the Succession for increased exemptions. Estate Tax Bill was passed. which: to \$50,000 for widows dependent children.

INCOME TAX

U.A., F.W.U.A. and Jr. F.U.A. to the Income Tax Act people.

increase in basic exemption for come over a 5-year period was earn up to \$950.00 and still dependent.

on farm house, electrical equipment established.

R F.U.A.

of the programs which the or participated in actively. Week.

Course at Banff. IP — is fast becoming a leading rural Alberta in citizenship, tion.

senior leaders from other province-wide level.

RENTAL PLAN

vention requested that the provinces to school divisions to enable rental plan. Book Rental Plan came into were allowed 40% discount

F.W.U.A. asked for Vocational for specific trades. Alberta has a Vocational Train-

Veterinarians for many years. called for the establishment of est. is being established in Saska-

PUBLIC WELFARE

From 1953 on the F.W.U.A. requested the provincial government that Mothers' Allowance be paid in full in all necessary cases where the husband:

- (a) is sent to jail
- (b) is confined to a mental hospital
- (c) deserts his wife and family
- (d) is incapacitated by disease or accident.

RESULTS: In 1957 by amendment to the act provision was made to include the above requests.

In June 1961 the Social Allowance Act was enacted (embodies Mothers' Allowance). Qualification and amount of allowance is based on NEED only.

In 1955 the F.W.U.A. Convention requested the provincial government to set aside substantial grants for the building of homes for the aged.

RESULT: In 1958 the provincial government announced their program to provide homes for the senior citizens of Alberta.

HEALTH

For many years the F.W.U.A. made representation to the provincial government asking that Rural Health Units be established and that they be adequately staffed.

RESULT: At present health units are established in practically the entire settled part of Alberta.

In 1952 F.W.U.A. passed a resolution asking provincial government to co-operate in an adequate plan for Health Insurance.

RESULT: 1963 saw the provincial government institute a plan to assist those with low incomes to pay their insurance premium.

In 1953 and for years following the federal government was requested to institute a National Health Insurance Plan.

RESULT: In 1959 National Health Insurance Plan was adopted.

Other health benefits requested by F.W.U.A. which are now in effect:

1. Provision of funds by the federal government for cancer research.
2. The institution by the federal government of an educational psychiatric programme with financial assistance.
3. Assisted in obtaining grants from provincial government to van mentally retarded children to school.

F.U.A. INSURANCE POOLS

In 1956 the annual meeting of the F.U.A. decided to investigate the possibility of setting up a Farm Accident Insurance Policy and an F.U.A. Car Insurance Pool.

RESULTS have been beneficial economically and service-wise. Time has seen a dividend of 7% paid on 1961 policies and 4% on 1962 out of the car-truck insurance pool. The CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES have grown to provide:

1. F.U.A. Car Insurance
2. F.U.A. Group Life Insurance
3. Fire — Farm Floater — Liability — Accident

A COMPLETE PROTECTION THROUGH YOUR F.U.A. FARM INSURANCE POOL.

F.U.A. SERVICES

INCOME TAX — Advice, preparation of tax returns, net worths, basic herds information, averaging, etc. at a very low cost.

In 1963, 467 members used this service. In 1964 this number increased to 525.

ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS — The F.U.A. has been able to assist many members in negotiating settlements on problems having to do with surface rights, farm machinery contracts, drainage problems, etc.

SURFACE RIGHTS — The F.U.A. has taken over the work of the Surface Rights Protective Association. The F.U.A. has been asking for a 3% royalty on gas and oil for the farmer owning surface rights. With the passing of Bill 85, more protection is being given to the land owners. As a result of F.U.A. representation concessions have been made in the assessment of well sites, weed control, etc.

FARM NEWS — The publication of the F.U.A., The Organized Farmer, is sent to every member, with news of local, national and international interest.

Periodically news of Farm Union activities and policy on agricultural issues are released to all weekly, and daily papers, radio and TV stations.

RADIO — The Voice of Agriculture, your F.U.A. Radio Broadcast is on the air Monday through Friday over:

CKSA—Lloydminster; CKNL—Ft. St. John, B.C.

CHEC—Lethbridge; CHFA—Edmonton;

CJDC—Dawson Creek; CKYL—Peace River, with Bill Harper as commentator.

ELECTRIC POWER

For 14 years the F.U.A. has consistently advocated that electric power be a publicly-owned utility, operated for the benefit of the users in the rural areas, with any surplus going into the provincial treasury.

Seven of Canada's ten provinces presently own and operate their power resources. Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and Alberta have privately owned power companies.

RESULT: The provincial government has established a Power Enquiry to study rates.

FARM REPRESENTATION

Members of the F.U.A., Junior F.U.A., and F.W.U.A. are giving the rural viewpoint on many provincial and federal committees. Some of these are:

- Advisory Committee Price Support
- Alberta Federation of Agriculture
- The Alberta Council on Child and Family Welfare
- Committee on Mental Health Legislation
- Curriculum Committee of the Department of Education
- Farm Labour Committee
- Farm Radio Forum
- Farm Safety
- Hudson's Bay Route Association
- Indian Eskimo Association
- Stabilization Act
- Alberta Economic and Productivity Council
- Local Employment Committee
- National Farmers' Union

MISCELLANEOUS

PUBLICATIONS—

In 1957 and 1958 the Convention requested that the University of Alberta and the Provincial Department of Agriculture gather and publish literature on modern farming practices.

RESULT: In 1959 the Alberta Farm Guide was printed supplying information on climate, soil, irrigation, grain, plant, livestock, agricultural engineering, farm management and other related farm interests in Alberta. It is available from the Alberta Department of Agriculture.

RURAL TELEPHONES—

In 1956 the provincial government was requested to give a grant to the rural mutual telephone companies to assist in their work.

RESULT: In 1957 a revolving fund was set up for rural telephones by the provincial government.

DAYLIGHT SAVING PLAN—

In 1954 the Convention passed a resolution re-affirming their stand on the abolition of daylight saving time.

FARM ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT—

The F.U.A. requested that the Department of Farm Economics and Management be expanded and so designed as to meet the present day needs of our agricultural community and economy.

RESULTS: Beef improvement and breeding program set up by the provincial government on a farm at Kinsella.

The University of Alberta is setting up a centre for the economic development of agriculture. The provincial government voted \$7,500.00 over a five-year period for the establishment of an Agricultural Economic Research Council.

FARMERS' DAY—

F.U.A. Conventions from 1949 on have asked that we urge the provincial government to make Farmers' Day a full provincial holiday.

PRAIRIE FARM REHABILITATION ACT—

The F.U.A. along with other agricultural organizations have been requesting that P.F.R.A. be available throughout Western Canada.

RESULT: In 1960 the P.F.R.A. has extended coverage to all areas of Western Canada.

e Farming Community More Members!

The Secretary,
Farmers' Union of Alberta,
9934 - 106th Street,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

The Farmers' Union of Alberta brief presented to the Legislature January 29, 1964—Resolution 16 under "Power to Oil Wells"—

"Resolved that the Provincial Government be asked to make it obligatory for oil companies to service their oil wells with electric power by underground cable so as to make it possible to farm the land free from the nuisance of poles and guy wires."

have been given careful study. I wish to report our findings as follows:

The choice of whether or not to supply oilwell pumping operations by overhead or underground lines is governed by the cost of these lines and the cost of underground lines is considerably higher than an overhead installation. There are many different combinations of voltages used in oilwell spacings, but the following figures are based on a typical installation serving four 10 h.p. oilwell pumps on a quarter section. This, of course, takes into account only the installation on the farmer's quarter and does not include lines on public rights-of-way:

	COST	
	Overhead	Underground
(a) 1,320' 23 K.V. 3-phase primary	\$ 575.00	\$ 5,300.00
(b) Substation Transformer	725.00	1,125.00
(c) 4,000' 480 volt secondary	1,830.00	4,350.00
	\$3,130.00	\$10,775.00

In the case of such an installation, therefore, the cost of an underground system would be about 3.4 times as much as it were overhead. In general, the cost of 1,000' of underground 23 K.V. line is 7.5 times the cost of an overhead line, while the cost of 1,000' of underground secondary is over twice as great as if it had been overhead.

The increased cost of underground construction would have to be passed along to the oil companies. They are not willing to pay high construction contributions towards the initial cost of the installation and any increase in the present rates would result in the oil companies using other sources of power. The present rates charged to oil companies are such that they make a small saving by using electricity. If these costs were increased they would switch many of these installations over to internal combustion engines. If the power companies lost this revenue there would be a decrease in the system load factor and rates would have to go up for other services.

Wherever it is practical the power companies place their pole lines on the access roads which the oil companies obtain from the farmers. Calgary Power's engineers estimate that at least half of their pole lines serving oilwells are located on these access roads.

Over and above the question of cost there are several reasons which make it undesirable to serve these oilwell installations with underground lines. Underground construction would be practically impossible during the winter period when frost is deep in the ground. This would limit the construction of oilwell extensions to the time of the year when no frost is present. Such an arrangement would not be satisfactory to the oil companies because they continue drilling during the winter. To meet their requirements, overhead line construction work also continues throughout the year.

The presence of underground electric cables through a farmer's field would be a hazard for the oil companies when extending or changing their existing pipelines. There would be a continual danger of their mechanical equipment damaging the cable and causing a power interruption and possible personal injury. This damage would take much longer to repair than an outage caused to an overhead line. Overhead lines provide adequate clearance for the use of standard trenching equipment without the danger of breaking the line or interrupting service.

These lines to service oilwells have a fairly short life. Calgary Power Limited have supplied me with figures which show the increasing number of wells which are being abandoned each year. This table shows the total number of new wells being served as well as the number disconnected during the years 1961 - 1963. To illustrate this point they have sent me a copy of their Joffre oilfield map which shows the number of wells originally connected and the number which has been disconnected during the last three years. When it is remembered that the first of these wells was connected in 1955 it becomes obvious what a short life these installations have.

Year	New	Total Applications	Total Disconnections
1961	461		313
1962	684		377
1963	582		284

When such wells are abandoned pole lines are relatively easy to salvage but it is questionable whether it would be economical to salvage underground cable installations because of the difficulty of trenching close to the cable location with mechanical equipment without damaging the cable. Labour is certainly too expensive to salvage the cable by hand. Another factor is that the underground cable will be cut for specific lengths and the utility company would be faced with stocking many odd lengths of cable and endeavouring to fit them on new installations as required.

While the following is probably not much consolation to a farmer who sees lines in his fields, the very fact that these oilwells are there has made a great difference to the cost of farm electrification in that area. For instance, estimates were made of the cost of serving farmers in the Drayton Valley area before the oilwells came into being and the average cost was estimated at \$1,000 per farm. About that time the oilwells developed and the farmers were able to use the power companies' lines as feeders, etc., to supply their farm system, with the result that the average cost per farm came down to something like \$650.

We think it would be most impractical and uneconomic to consider putting these lines underground.

Yours sincerely,
A. RUSSELL PATRICK,
Minister of Industry & Development

THE CONSUMER . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

modern testing programs, we shall soon see Brucellosis a thing of the past.

"Our livestock division grades meat products — these are people that put the familiar red or blue brandstamp on beef you buy. Our Fruits and Vegetables Division, Poultry Division, Dairy Division do the same thing in their fields.

"Our General Services unit keeps an eye on retail stores.

"The Consumer Section has a crew of home economists working on recipes and homemaking hints that help you get the most out of the food you buy.

"Our Plant Protection Division makes sure that your flowers and gardens are not going to be attacked by some new bug from another country. They have inspection officers at ports to investigate incoming cargoes.

"Our research branch is a story in itself. The Canada Department of Agriculture either does, or pays for, at least 80 per cent of all the agricultural research done in Canada. Many of the research officers are located at field establishments across Canada. The largest field research station of the Department is located right here in Alberta at Lethbridge.

"One of our research units that is of interest to the consumer is the Food Research Institute. This Institute is concerned with developing new food products and im-

proving old ones. They've done quite a lot of interesting work on instant foods and have produced instant potatoes, instant turnips, and even a combination of instant meat and potatoes.

"I could go on for much longer

than my time permits — I could talk about our supervision of race track betting, or of our supervision of livestock records — but I think this gives you some idea of the work we are doing. And that it isn't just for the farmer!"



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